

INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

**United States Embassy
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago**

Bimonthly Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 6

November-December 2005

Our Bimonthly Newsletter includes websites from the Electronic Documentation Service, a mechanism for identifying and delivering authoritative but often hard-to-locate and soon-out-of-print reports by a number of different government agencies and private think tanks.

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DEMOCRACY

BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN U.S. ELECTIONS: REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON FEDERAL ELECTION REFORM.

Jimmy Carter and James A. Baker, III

September 2005

http://www.american.edu/ia/cfer/report/full_report.pdf

Co-chaired by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James A. Baker, III, the Commission on Federal Election Reform was formed to address the problems of the U.S. electoral system. The Commission's final report represents a comprehensive proposal for modernization based on five main pillars:

- 1) A universal voter registration system in which states, not local jurisdictions, are responsible for the accuracy and quality of the voter lists.
- 2) A uniform system of voter identification based on the "REAL ID card."
- 3) State measures that increase voting participation by making voting more convenient and offering more information on registration lists and voting.
- 4) Methods for making voters who use electronic machines confident that their votes will be counted accurately.
- 5) Strengthened and restructured systems for administering U.S. elections.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

ADDRESSING OUR GLOBAL WATER FUTURE

Center for Strategic and International Studies and Sandia National Laboratories

September 2005

http://www.csis.org/gsi/050928_gwf.pdf

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This White Paper outlines the major conclusions of the Global Water Futures project. Jointly conducted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies and Sandia National Laboratories, the project's goal was to generate fresh thinking and concrete policy recommendations on how the United States can:

1. Better address future global water challenges; and
2. More efficiently leverage and deploy available technologies.

The resulting White Paper makes the case for elevating the response to global water challenges to a strategic priority; identifies the most effective responses to global water challenges; and explores U.S. policy options, current and future.

BUSINESS--UNITED STATES--STATISTICS

U.S. Census

<http://www.census.gov/prod/ec02/ec0255a1us.pdf>

2002 Economic Census, Management of Companies and Enterprises, Geographic Area Series, United States and States: 2002

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY-UNITED STATES

USA For Innovation

http://www.usaforinnovation.org/news/ip_master.pdf

USA For Innovation today announced the release of a paper commissioned to identify the importance of American innovation and intellectual property and what is being done to protect this American asset. The paper titled 'The Economic Value of Intellectual Property' and co-authored by economists Dr. Robert Shapiro and Dr. Kevin Hassett quantifies the worth of American intellectual property at \$5 - 5.5 Trillion, far higher than previous estimates and squarely at the heart of American economic growth. The paper goes on to identify the Bush Administration's 'lax attitude' towards protecting American research, development and creativity.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The World Bank

[International Migration, Remittances and the Brain Drain](#)

This volume contains (i) four country case studies on the impact of remittances on poverty and expenditure patterns, and (ii) four chapters on the brain drain, including the largest existing data base on the brain drain, and analyses of the brain gain, brain waste, and the impact on productivity in destination countries.

INTERNET USAGE-UNITED STATES-STATISTICS

U.S. Census

Just Released, <http://www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/p23-208.pdf>

A new report from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that 40 percent of adults used the Internet to obtain news, weather or sports information in 2003, a sharp increase from only 7 percent six years earlier. In a measure of how interpersonal communications are changing, more than half of adults (55 percent) used e-mail or instant messaging in 2003, a dramatic increase from the 12 percent who did so in 1997. The report also shows the Internet has become an integral part of the economy. In 2003, nearly half (47 percent) of adults used the Internet to find information on products or services. About one-third (32 percent) actually purchased a product or service online, compared with only 2 percent of adults who shopped online in 1997.

See Also: [Detailed Tables](#)

SMALL BUSINESS--UNITED STATES

U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy

<http://www.sba.gov/advo/stats/sbfaq.pdf>

From [press release](#): "The 2005 Small Business FAQ is a great resource for small business people, policymakers, and anyone interested in how small business drives our economy," said Dr. Chad Moutray, Chief Economist for the Office of Advocacy. He added, "These statistics paint a compelling picture of just how important small business is to America. They show that small businesses are America's job-creators, innovators, and the path to mainstream economic activity for all segments of our society."

SPAM ISSUES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Committee for Information, Computer and Communications Policy; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Web-posted September 2005

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/5/47/34935342.pdf>

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Issued by the OECD's Task Force on Spam, this paper discusses the challenges faced by developing economies in fighting spam. Spam, the Task Force found, is a more serious issue in developing countries than in OECD countries, as spam heavily drains developing countries' more scarce and costly resources. The paper's main emphasis is on issues facing Internet Service Providers. Following a review of the economic and technical aspects of spam, the paper suggests several technical and legislative solutions. It addresses the education and empowerment of users, including giving users access to secure computing resources and making them more sensitized to Internet abuse issues. The paper also examines what developing economies can do to combat spam on their own, and the various ways in which developed economies can contribute their expertise and resources to help in these initiatives.

WEALTH--UNITED STATES--LISTS & RANKINGS

Forbes

[Forbes 400 \(2005\)](#)

The 400 Richest Americans. Sort list by rank, name, net worth, age, and residence. Numerous special features are included in the online package.

WELFARE REFORM

The Brookings Institution

<http://www.brookings.edu/es/research/projects/wrb/publications/pb/pb33.htm>

Trends in income and consumption tell very different stories about the well-being of single mothers and their children in recent years. On the one hand, data suggest that income fell noticeably for single mothers well below the poverty line, while income grew significantly for single mothers with higher incomes. On the other hand, data on how much these two groups of mothers and children consumed suggest that the material circumstances of both groups improved during the 1990s.

EDUCATION

ARTS EDUCATION--FOUNDATION SUPPORT

The Foundation Center

http://fdncenter.org/research/trends_analysis/pdf/arted05.pdf

From [press release](#): "The first in-depth study on foundation funding for arts education finds that giving in this area grew faster than arts giving overall between 1999 and 2003. In 2003, programs serving children and youth received over 40 percent of the \$208.8 million given for arts education by the largest U.S. foundations."

COLLEGE RANKINGS-INFLUENCE

Cornell Higher Education Research Institute

http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/cheri/wp/cheri_wp76.pdf

The annual U.S. News and World Report (USNWR) Guide to America's Best Colleges is a much anticipated magazine among both high-ability prospective students and college and university administrators. In this paper we use a decade of Colgate University Admitted Student Questionnaire surveys to estimate the influence of changes in a school's USNWR rank on the probability of matriculation of high-ability students. We find that the school choice of students is more responsive to changes in rank the higher (better) a school is ranked. This sensitivity to rank is independent of other objective measures of quality.

GRADE RETENTION

Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis

[Effects of Kindergarten Retention Policy on Children's Cognitive Growth in Reading and Mathematics](#)

Grade retention has been controversial for many years, and current calls to end social promotion have lent new urgency to this issue. Analyzing data from the US Early Childhood Longitudinal Study Kindergarten cohort with the technique of multilevel propensity score stratification, we find no evidence that a policy of grade retention in kindergarten improves average achievement in mathematics or reading. Nor do we find evidence that the policy benefits children who would be promoted under the policy. However, the evidence does suggest that children who are retained learn less than they would have had they instead been promoted.

MASS COMMUNICATIONS--JOB MARKET

James M. Cox Jr. Center for International Mass Communication Training and Research, University of Georgia

<http://www.grady.uga.edu/annualsurveys/grd04/GraduateReport.pdf>

The job market for journalism and mass communication graduates showed significant signs of improvement in 2004 and the first half of 2005. For the first time since 2000, the level of full-time employment has increased over the year before. Salaries also grew.

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION-BENEFITS

Productivity and Prosperity Project, W. P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University

[The Value of Higher Education: Individual and Societal Benefits](#)

From [press release](#): "Putting money into a four-year college education turns out to be a better financial investment - to the tune of \$1 million more over one's lifetime than people who have just a high school education. The rate of return on the money spent to earn a bachelor's degree is 12 percent per year, compared with the long-run average annual return on stocks of 7 percent. The net return is overall costs, including individual contribution and state appropriations, as well as income sacrificed while earning that degree. Despite the high return on investment, just 25 percent of the U.S. adult population has at least a bachelor's degree. In comparison, more than 50 percent of Americans invest in the stock market, according to the American Shareholders Association."

SUBSTANCE ABUSE-PUBLIC OPINION

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, Columbia University

http://www.casacolumbia.org/Absolutenm/articlefiles/Teen_Survey_Report_2005.pdf

The most troubling discovery from this year's survey is the extent to which our nation's schools are awash in illegal and prescription drugs. Since 2002, the proportion of middle schoolers who say there are drugs in their schools is up by a startling 47 percent, and the proportion of high schoolers attending schools with drugs is up by 41 percent. Teens who attend schools where drugs are used, kept or sold are three times likelier to have tried marijuana, three times likelier to get drunk in a typical month, and twice as likely to have tried alcohol, compared to teens who attend drug-free schools.

ENVIRONMENT

None

GLOBAL ISSUES

PREVENTING CHRONIC DISEASES: A VITAL INVESTMENT

World Health Organization (WHO). Web-posted October 2005

http://www.who.int/chp/chronic_disease_report/full_report.pdf

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This WHO global report makes the case for urgent action to halt and turn back the growing threat of chronic diseases including cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases, cancer, and diabetes. In particular, the report shows that the impact of chronic diseases in many low- and middle-income countries is steadily growing. The report presents a state-of-the-art guide to effective and feasible interventions, and provides practical suggestions for how countries can implement these interventions to respond successfully to the growing epidemics. The report also features nine country profiles, which were selected on the basis of the size of each country's chronic disease burden, its quality and reliability of available data, and its lessons learned from previous prevention and control experiences.

HIV/AIDS

None

LAW ENFORCEMENT / SECURITY / ILLEGAL DRUGS

CRIME-UNITED STATES-STATISTICS

BJS

Just Released, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ppus04.htm>

During 2004 the total Federal, State, and local adult correctional population - incarcerated or in the community - grew to nearly 7 million....Reports the number of persons on probation and parole, by State, at yearend 2004 and compares the totals with yearend 1995 and 2000. It lists the States with the largest and smallest parole and probation populations and the largest and smallest rates of community supervision, and identifies the States with the largest increases.

OTHER

SEE YOU IN THE U.S.A.

U.S. Department of State

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0905/ijpe/ijpe0905.htm>

This eJournal USA brings together the information you need to make your trip to the United States as easy as possible. It also defines the acronyms of U.S. government travel programs and explains how these fit in with those of other nations.

